Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2002

SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG 13 AND 15 YEAR OLDS BORDERS, 2002

A survey undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh, commissioned by the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland) on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

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Notes on statistics

When differences between estimates are specifically commented on in the report text these differences are significant unless otherwise stated. For example reporting that *'…the prevalence of drug use was higher in boys than in girls…'* would indicate that the gender difference in drug use is s*tatistically significant.* Further details on precision of estimates and statistical significance are given in Chapter 6 *Survey Design*.

Notes to tables

- percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding

- some children did not answer each question, these 'no answers' have been excluded from the analyses and so the tables that describe the same population may have varying bases

- the following conventions have been used in the tables,
  0 = less than 0.5 but not 0
  - = 0

- some percentages, particularly where numbers are broken down by age group or gender, may be based on a small number of pupils and should therefore be treated with caution as apparent differences may not be statistically significant

Acknowledgements:

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We would also like to thank the schools and pupils who took part in the survey.

1 Summary of Findings

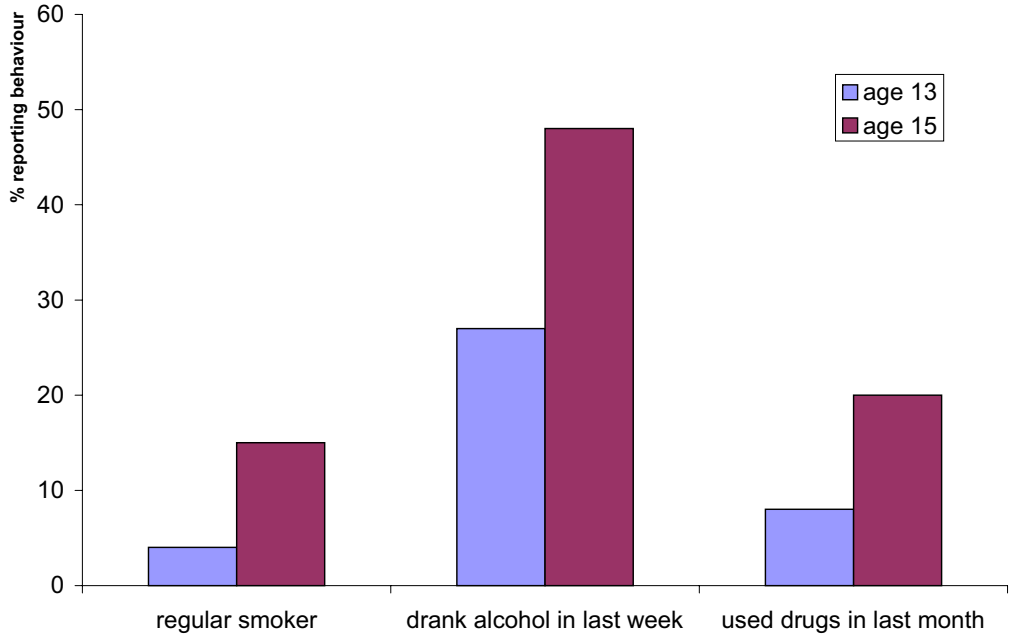
SALSUS 2002 found that among pupils in the Borders:

- 4% of 13 year olds and 15% of 15 year olds were regular smokers[1]
- Prevalence of regular smoking was significantly lower than the reported national prevalence in both age groups
- 27% of 13 year olds and 48% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drinking in the week prior to the survey was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- 8% of 13 year olds and 20% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the month prior to the survey
- Prevalence of drug use was not significantly different from the reported national prevalence for either age group
- The differences in drinking and drug use between boys and girls in Borders were not statistically significant, however girls were more likely to be regular smokers than boys
- For 15 year old pupils the average age for first drinking or smoking was 12, but the average age for the first occasion of drug use was older at 14 years.

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 (overleaf) show the age and gender differences in reported smoking, drinking and drug use in Borders in 2002.

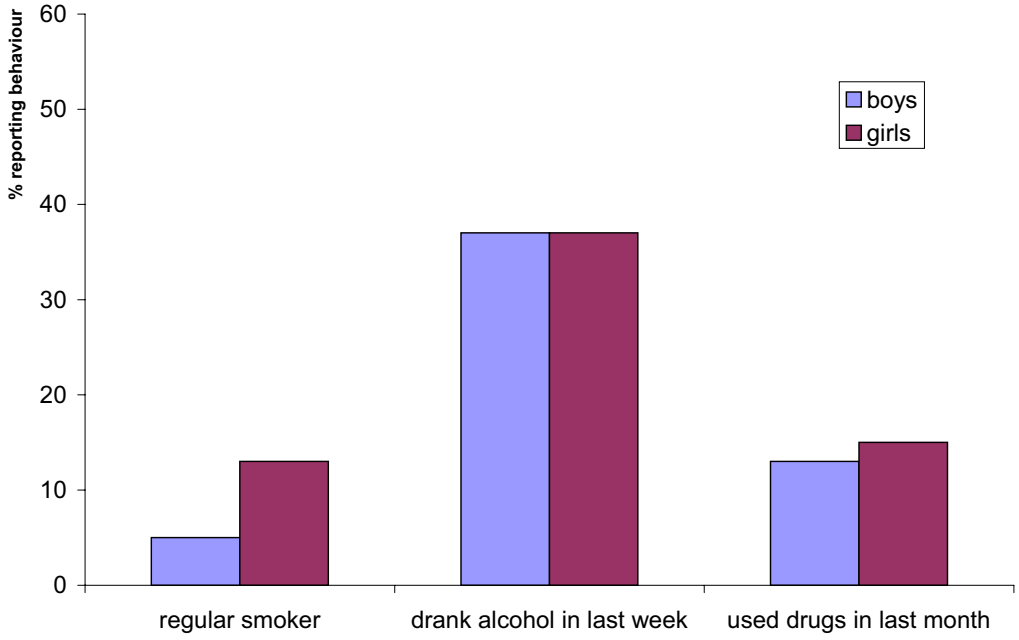
[1] regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 1.1: Smoking, drinking and drug use in 13 and 15 year olds, by age group: Borders 2002.



(Source: tables 3.1, 4.3, 5.1)

Figure 1.2: Smoking, drinking and drugs use in 13 and 15 year olds, by gender: Borders 2002.



(Source: tables 3.2, 4.4, 5.2)

2 Background to the Survey

2.1 Introduction

This report presents the key findings from the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) on the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use among 13 and 15 year old pupils attending schools in the Borders Council area. Findings on the availability of substances and on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils and their families in relation to substance use are also reported. One of the main purposes in developing the survey was to provide Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, local authorities and NHS Boards with information about substance use among school pupils in their own areas. The information is intended to assist local planning.

The national Interim Report released in December 2002[1] presented key national findings on the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use and comparisons are made with these national findings in this report. A more comprehensive national report will be published later in 2003. It will describe smoking, drinking and drug use in the context of adolescent lifestyles and health. Further local level information in the form of tables of lifestyle and health data will also become available following the publication of the national report.

2.2 Survey arrangements

SALSUS continues the series of biennial surveys of smoking, drinking and drug use begun in 1982[2] and is the first national school survey to provide local as well as national information. This is possible because new survey arrangements have been made in Scotland following an information needs assessment undertaken by the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM). SACDM identified the need for a regular cross sectional survey of substance misuse among schoolchildren in Scotland, disaggregated if possible to Drug and Alcohol Action Team and local authority level and including contextual information on other health and lifestyle factors. The Scottish Executive felt that the UK survey no longer met all Scotland's information needs and asked the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland) to convene a National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group[3] to consider possible options for a Scottish survey to cover all areas of substance misuse and lifestyle contextual factors, and which would allow for the disaggregation of data to provide local information.

The key factor in making recommendations for a survey in 2002 was the pressing need for local information to support the work of Drug Action Teams (DATs) and Alcohol Action Teams (AATs), though the Working Group were also guided by the commitment to keep to a minimum any disruption to schools and the need for information on other lifestyle factors and social contextual information to gain a better

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[1] The SALSUS Interim Report can be accessed on-line http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_interim02.htm

[2] The first survey in the series of biennial school surveys commissioned by the Department of Health with the Scottish Office was carried out in 1982 to obtain information on smoking prevalence and behaviour. From 1990 surveys included items on drinking and from 1998 items on drugs. In 2000 the survey was carried out by the National Centre for Social Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research, all previous surveys were carried out by ONS.

[3] The Working Group included representatives from a range of interests, including Drug and Alcohol Action Team Associations, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Health Education Board for Scotland, SE Health Policy Directorate, SE Education Department and LA Education Departments.

understanding of substance use in school aged children. It was agreed that the best means of addressing all these issues in a Scottish survey was to combine components of the existing national and UK biennial school surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use with components of the WHO Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) survey[1] on lifestyle and health factors, and to undertake the revised Scottish survey (now known as the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey, SALSUS) concurrently with the HBSC survey in 2002[2]. SALSUS is being undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit of the University of Edinburgh in conjunction with the HBSC survey research in 2002. A smaller national survey will be undertaken in 2004. The contract is managed on behalf of the Scottish Executive by ISD Scotland with advice from an Advisory Group made up of key stakeholders including Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, the Health Education Board for Scotland and the Scottish Executive.

2.3 Sample design

SALSUS 2002 required a much larger sample of pupils than previous surveys in this series to ensure adequate precision of estimates of prevalence in local areas. Mainly for reasons of cost and the workload burden on schools it was not feasible to survey pupils in S1-S4 inclusive, as in previous years. Consequently the survey samples pupils from only two school years: S2 and S4. For the purpose of reporting, S2 pupils will be referred to as '13 year olds' and S4 pupils referred to as '15 year olds' throughout these reports.[3]

The survey fieldwork was carried out in the 2002 Spring term. Each participating school was requested to administer a confidential questionnaire to each pupil in selected classes. The methods used to select schools and the number of classes ensured that within each local authority every eligible pupil had an equal chance of being included in the study. All pupils in S2 and S4 attending local authority and independently funded schools were eligible for inclusion in the study, with the exception of pupils attending special schools or schools with very few pupils.

2.4 Local response rates

The SALSUS 2002 survey of Borders was designed to have a final sample size of 800 pupils, split equally between S2 and S4. This constituted approximately 32% of the pupils eligible to be included in the study. Of the 10 schools which were asked to participate 9 schools (90%) agreed to take part in the study.

Response rates are based on class and pupil participation rates. In total 40 classes in Borders were selected to participate, and 36 classes (90%) took part. The overall pupil response rate within classes was 93%. The main reason for pupil non-response was absence due to illness. The final survey response in Borders, based on the class

[1] The HBSC survey has been conducted in Scotland every four years since 1990 by Dr Candace Currie, Scottish HBSC Principal Investigator and Director of the Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU), The University of Edinburgh. http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru

[2] The SALSUS 2002 Protocol provides more detailed background information, including government policy frameworks for smoking, drinking and drug misuse, survey aims and objectives, sample design and questionnaire items.

[3] As in previous surveys in this series 16 year olds are included in the '15 year old' age group. The '13 year old' group also includes 14 year olds. The pupils in S2 have an average age of 13 years 7 months, and 14% are 14 years old (5% more than 14 years 1 month, 2% older than 14 years 2 months). The pupils in S4 have an average age of 15 years 7 months, and 17% are 16 years old (5% more than 16 years 1 month, 3% more than 16 years 2 months). The average age of the SALSUS '13 year old' and '15 year old' groups is not significantly different from that of '13' and '15' year old age groups cited in previous reports (average age 13 years 6 months and 15 years 6 months respectively).

and pupil response rate, was therefore 81%. This compares favourably with the overall national response rate for SALSUS 2002 of 65%. The final sample size was 707 pupils, 28.5% of the target population in Borders.

3 Smoking

3.1 Smoking prevalence

In Borders, reported prevalence of regular smoking[1] increased significantly with age. In 2002, 4% of 13 year olds were regular smokers compared with 15% of 15 year olds. For both age groups the reported prevalence in Borders was significantly lower than the national prevalence of regular smoking (national figures: 8% for 13 year olds and 20% for 15 year olds). Around half of all 13 year olds reported that they had never smoked (55%), compared with 38% of 15 year olds.

Again, reflecting patterns found nationally, there was a higher prevalence of regular smoking among girls than boys in Borders; 13% of girls and 5% of boys were regular smokers (**Tables 3.1, 3.2**).

3.2 Number of cigarettes smoked

Pupils who smoked regularly were asked how many cigarettes they usually smoked in a week. Younger pupils who were regular smokers reported smoking slightly fewer cigarettes per week than older pupils: an average of 19 per week for 13 year olds and 24 per week for 15 year olds, however this difference was not statistically significant. There was no significant gender difference in the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by regular smokers (boys reported smoking an average of 26 cigarettes per week and for girls the average was 22 cigarettes per week).

3.3 Money spent on cigarettes

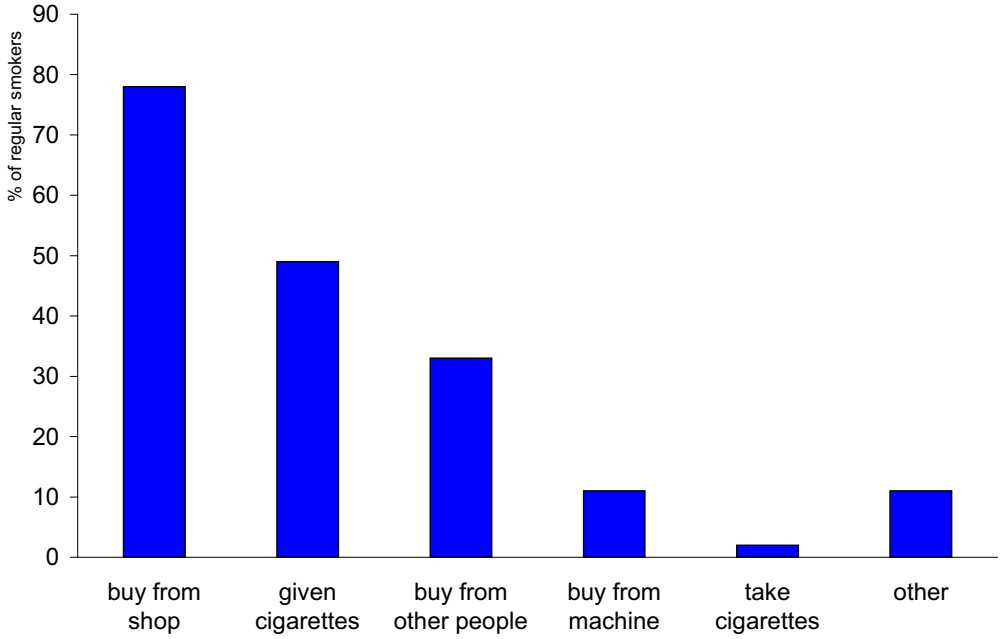
Almost all regular smokers (89%) reported that they spent money on cigarettes. The average amount spent by regular smokers who bought cigarettes was £6.00 a week.

3.4 Where pupils obtain cigarettes

Regular smokers were given a list of sources for obtaining cigarettes and asked to indicate where they usually obtained their cigarettes. Some pupils gave more than one source. The majority of regular smokers (78%) indicated that they bought cigarettes from shops, around one in ten (11%) bought them from machines and a third (33%) reported buying them from other people. However, smokers did not always buy cigarettes, just under half (49%) of all regular smokers reported that they were given cigarettes by friends or relatives, 2% reported that they 'take cigarettes' and 11% of pupils reported that they obtained their cigarettes 'some other way' (**Tables 3.3 and 3.4, Figure 3.1**).

[1] regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week

Figure 3.1: Source of cigarettes: Borders 2002.



(Source: Table 3.3 and 3.4)

3.5 Smoking dependence

Regular smokers were asked whether they would like to give up smoking and how difficult or easy they felt this would be. Just under half (49%) of regular smokers reported that they would like to give up smoking and just over half (56%) had tried to give up at some time. Nineteen percent (19%) of all regular smokers reported that they would find it very difficult to give up smoking altogether and a further 33% reported that they would find it fairly difficult.

Pupils who had smoked for more than a year (51% of all regular smokers) were more likely to think it would be very difficult to give up smoking altogether compared to pupils who had smoked for one year or less: 34% of pupils who had smoked for more than a year reported that it would be very difficult to give up smoking compared with 4% of pupils who had smoked regularly for one year or less **(Tables 3.5 to 3.8)**.

3.6 Family attitudes to smoking

All pupils were asked about their family's attitudes to smoking. Pupils who smoked were asked 'How does your family feel about your smoking?' and pupils who did not smoke were asked 'How do you think your family would feel if you started smoking?'.

Sixty five percent (65%) of regular smokers reported that their families either stop them smoking or try to persuade them to stop smoking. Most (60%) of the pupils who were regular smokers reported that they are not allowed to smoke at home **(Tables 3.9 and 3.10)**.

Almost all non-smokers (91%) reported that their families would either stop them smoking or try to persuade them not to smoke **(Table 3.9)**.

Pupils were also asked whether their families and friends smoked. More pupils who were regular smokers reported that a parent was a daily smoker compared with non-smokers: 57% of regular smokers compared with 31% of non-smokers. Pupils who reported that they smoked regularly were also more likely to have a sibling who smoked daily: 33% of regular smokers, compared with 11% of non-smokers **(Tables 3.11 and 3.12)**.

Regular smokers were also more likely to have friends who smoked: 30% of regular smokers reported that 'all or almost all' of their friends smoked compared with 3% of non-smokers. Over half of the non-smokers (58%) reported that 'none' or 'almost none' of their friends smoked **(Table 3.13)**.

3.7 Cigarette advertising

Pupils were given a list of places and asked to say whether or not they had seen cigarettes advertised there over the previous six months. Most pupils (62%) reported that they had seen adverts on posters or billboards. More than half reported that they had seen adverts in magazines (54%) or on television (47%). Fewer pupils reported seeing adverts in newspapers (34%) or at the cinema (15%) **(Table 3.14)**.

3.8 Lessons on smoking

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on smoking. Pupil responses depend on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported that they had lessons, videos or discussions: 82% of 13 year olds and 66% of 15 year olds. However, 13% of 13 year olds and 27% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% of 13 year olds and 8% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know if they had had lessons, videos or discussions on smoking **(Table 3.15).**

Table 3.1: Smoking behaviour by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	4	15	9	14
Occasional smoker	4	10	7	5
Used to smoke	16	12	14	13
Tried smoking once	22	25	23	23
Never smoked	55	38	47	45
Base	*348*	*345*	*693*	*22313*

Base=all pupils
note: regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week; occasional smoker smokes cigarettes sometimes but not as many as one a week

Table 3.2: Smoking behaviour by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Regular smoker	5	13	9	14
Occasional smoker	6	8	7	5
Used to smoke	12	16	14	13
Tried smoking once	25	22	23	23
Never smoked	53	41	47	45
Base	*345*	*348*	*693*	*22313*

Base=all pupils
note: regular smoker, usually smokes one or more cigarettes a week; occasional smoker smokes cigarettes sometimes but not as many as one a week

Table 3.3: Source of cigarettes by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Buy from shop	54	84	78
Given cigarettes	62	45	49
Buy from other people	46	29	33
Buy from machine	15	10	11
Take cigarettes	-	2	2
Get cigarettes some other way	15	10	11
Base	*13*	*51*	*64*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 3.4: Source of cigarettes by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Buy from shop	77	78	78
Given cigarettes	39	53	49
Buy from other people	22	37	33
Buy from machine	17	9	11
Take cigarettes	5	0	2
Get cigarettes some other way	17	9	11
Base	*18*	*46*	*64*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 3.5: Whether regular smokers would like to give up smoking: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Would like to give up smoking	49
Would not like to give up smoking	51
Base	*60*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.6: Whether regular smokers have ever tried to give up smoking: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Has tried to give up smoking	56
Has not tried to give up smoking	44
Base	*63*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.7: Length of time smoking: Borders 2002.

	Total %
One year or less	49
More than a year	51
Base	*62*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.8: Ease of giving up smoking by length of time smoking: Borders 2002.

	One year or less %	More than a year %	Total %	National Total %
Very difficult	4	34	19	32
Fairly difficult	37	31	33	36
Fairly easy	33	25	29	21
Very easy	26	10	19	11
Base	*30*	*32*	*63*	*2868*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.9: Perception of family attitude to pupil's smoking, by smoking status: Borders 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non-smoker %	Total %	National Total %
Stop/would stop me	13	32	60	53	54
Persuade me not to	52	49	31	34	35
Do nothing	10	5	1	2	3
Encourage me	2	0	0	0	0
Not sure	23	14	8	10	7
Base	*61*	*44*	*476*	*595*	*19279*

Base= All pupils

Table 3.10: Whether regular smokers are allowed to smoke at home: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Allowed to smoke at home	15
Not allowed to smoke at home	60
Don't know	26
Base	*47*

Base= All pupils who were regular smokers

Table 3.11: Parents' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Borders 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
Neither parent smokes daily	43	56	68
At least one parent smokes daily	57	39	31
Does not see either parent	0	4	1
Base	*62*	*46*	*553*

Base= All pupils

Table 3.12: Siblings' smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Borders 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
No sibling smokes	64	69	81
At least one sibling smokes daily	33	28	11
Does not have siblings	3	2	8
Base	*58*	*46*	*526*

Base= All pupils

Table 3.13: Friends smoking, by pupil's smoking status: Borders 2002.

	Regular smoker %	Occasional smoker %	Non smoker %
All or almost all	30	2	3
More than half	44	22	7
Half	11	23	9
Less than half	9	25	23
Almost none	6	25	36
None	0	2	22
Base	*64*	*48*	*577*

Base= All pupils

Table 3.14: Whether pupils have seen cigarette advertising: Borders 2002.

	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	*Base*
On posters/billboards	62	24	14	*668*
In magazines	54	33	13	*667*
On television	47	42	11	*670*
In newspapers	34	48	18	*658*
At the cinema	15	65	21	*650*

Base= All pupils

Table 3.15: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on smoking, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	82	66	74
No	13	27	20
Don't know	5	8	6
Base	*314*	*325*	*639*

Base= All pupils

4 Drinking

4.1 Prevalence of alcohol use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever had a 'proper alcoholic drink, a whole drink, not just a sip'. The prevalence of alcohol use increased significantly with age. Seventy seven percent (77%) of 13 year olds and 93% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink **(Table 4.1)**. For both age groups the reported prevalence in Borders was significantly higher than the national prevalence of alcohol use (national figures: 69% for 13 year olds and 88% for 15 year olds).

Just under half (48%) of 15 year olds and 27% of 13 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week, again a significant increase in prevalence with age. As with prevalence of ever drinking, more pupils in Borders reported drinking in the last week compared with the national prevalence, but these differences were small and not statistically significant (national figures: 23% of 13 year olds reported drinking in the week before the survey compared with 46% of 15 year olds). There was no significant difference between boys and girls in the proportion of pupils drinking in the last week **(Tables 4.3 and 4.4)**.

4.2 Usual drinking frequency

Among those pupils who reported having an alcoholic drink, the frequency of drinking increased significantly with age; 19% of 13 year old pupils reported that they usually drink at least once a week, compared to 38% of 15 year old pupils. For neither age group was the prevalence of weekly drinking significantly different from that reported nationally (national figures: 17% of 13 year olds and 38% of 15 year olds reported drinking weekly). There was no significant difference between boys and girls in reporting drinking at least once a week (29% of boys and 27% of girls) **(Tables 4.5 and 4.6)**.

4.3 Money spent on alcohol

Of all pupils who drank weekly, two thirds (66%) reported that they spent money on alcohol. The average amount spent by those who bought alcohol was £7.00 a week.

4.4 Type of alcohol consumed

Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked whether or not they had consumed various categories of alcoholic drink[1]. There were significant differences between boys and girls in the types of alcohol drunk. For boys 'beer, lager or cider' were most commonly reported: 58% of boys who had drunk alcohol in the last week had consumed half a pint or more of beer, lager or cider. For girls, 'alcopops' were most commonly reported: 63% had drunk alcopops in the last week. Half of the girls (50%) reported that they had drunk spirits in the last week **(Table 4.8).**

[1] Pupils were asked about the following types of drink: beer, lager or cider, shandy, wine, martini and sherry, spirits and liqueurs, alcopops and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks.

4.5 Average amount of alcohol consumed weekly

Pupils who reported that they had drunk alcohol in the last week before the survey were asked to record the amount they had consumed of each category of alcoholic drink. From this the total units of alcohol consumed were calculated. Half a pint of beer or a small glass of wine contains approximately one unit of alcohol. The method used to calculate units of alcohol was the same as used in previous surveys in this series (a full discussion of the method, including issues of under-reporting, can be found in Boreham et al., 2001[1]). Boys who drank over the previous seven days consumed on average 9 units of alcohol, and girls also consumed an average of 9 units. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show the consumption of each type of drink as a proportion of the total reported amount of alcohol drunk in the week prior to the survey.

Figure 4.1: Type of alcohol drunk by boys in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Borders 2002.

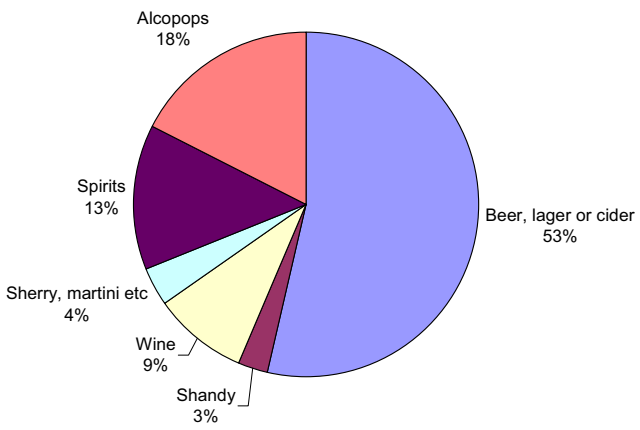
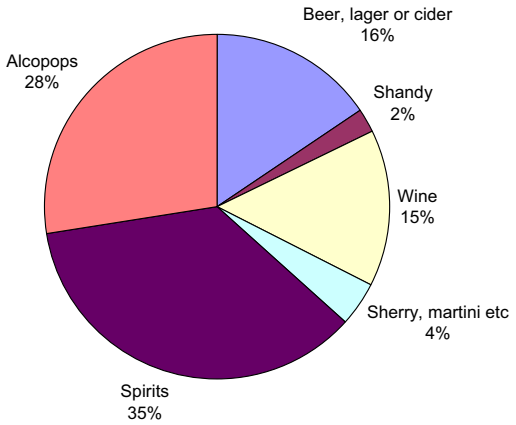


Figure 4.2: Type of alcohol drunk by girls in previous week, percentage of total units consumed: Borders 2002.

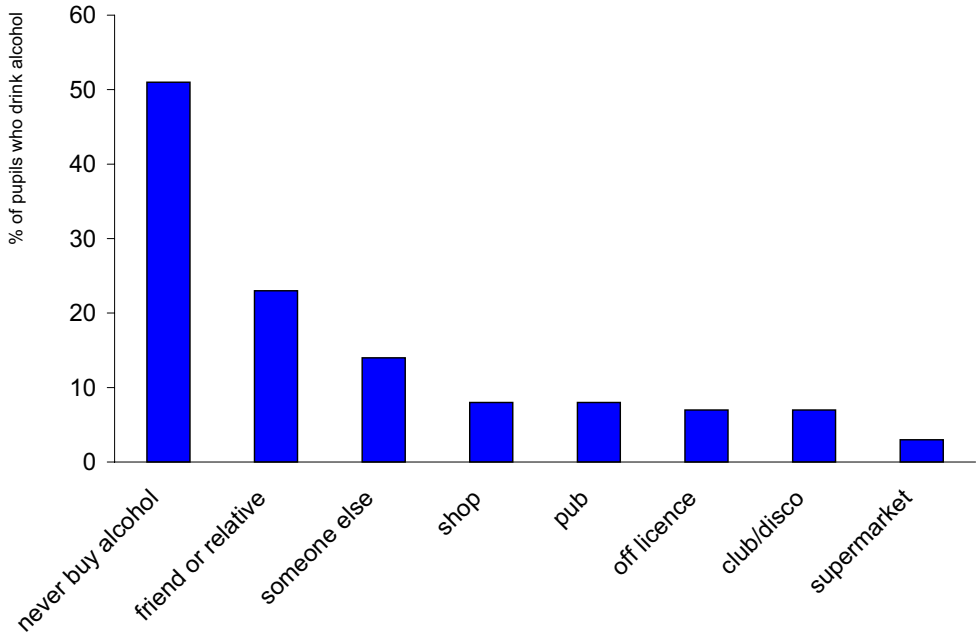


[1] Boreham R. and Shaw A. (eds) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in Scotland 2000*. Edinburgh: The Stationery Office, 2001.

4.6 Availability of alcohol

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually obtained alcohol. Some pupils reported more than one source. Around half (51%) of those who had had an alcoholic drink reported that they 'never buy alcohol'. The most common sources for purchasing alcohol by pupils in the Borders area was from a 'friend or relative' (23%) and from 'someone else' (14%). Fewer than one in ten pupils reported any of the other sources **(Table 4.9 and 4.10, Figure 4.3).**

Figure 4.3: Sources for obtaining alcohol, all pupils who had had an alcoholic drink: Borders 2002.

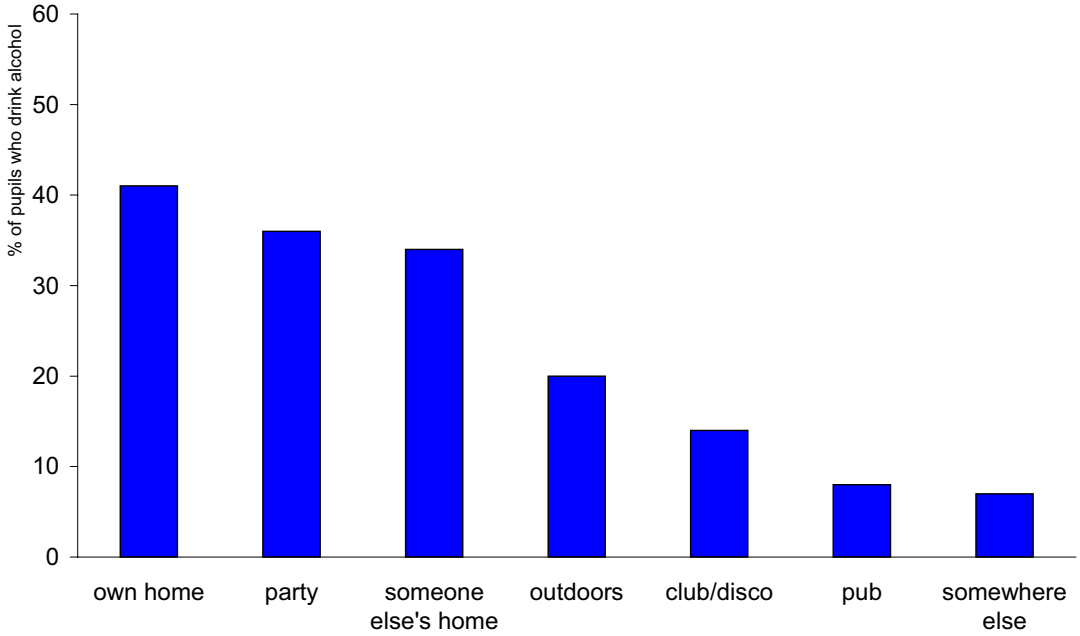


(Source: Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

4.7 Where young people drink alcohol

Pupils were asked 'When you drink alcohol, where are you usually?' and given a list of possible locations. Some pupils reported more than one location. The three most frequently reported locations for drinking alcohol were in the pupil's 'own home' (41%) at a party (36%) and in 'someone else's home' (34%). Around one in five pupils (20%) reported that they drank alcohol 'outdoors'. **(Tables 4.11 and 4.12, Figure 4.4).**

Figure 4.4: Places where pupils drink alcohol, all pupils who have had an alcoholic drink: Borders 2002.



(Source: tables 4.11 and 4.12)

4.8 Drinking to excess

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked 'Have you ever had so much alcohol that you were really drunk?'. Overall, 64% of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol reported that they had been drunk at least once. Nineteen (19%) had been drunk once, 20% had been drunk 2-3 times, 15% had been drunk 4-10 times and 10% had been drunk more than 10 times **(Tables 4.13 and 4.14)**.

All pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were also asked at what age they first got drunk (if ever). The average age reported by 15 year old pupils who had been drunk was 13 years old.

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils who had ever had a proper alcoholic drink (44%) reported that they had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past 30 days and 9% had consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion 4 or more times in the past 30 days **(Tables 4.15 and 4.16)**.

4.9 Effects of drinking too much alcohol

Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked whether they had ever experienced any of a list of possible effects as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Pupils could give more than one answer. The most commonly reported effect was vomiting, reported by 36% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils. 'Having an argument or fight' was reported by 21% of all 13 and 15 year olds.

Some pupils had been involved in other risk behaviours as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Thirteen percent (13%) had tried drugs. Six percent (6%) of all 15

year olds (2% of boys and 9% of girls) had had unprotected sex (13 year old pupils were not asked questions on sexual health).

One in ten pupils had stayed off school as a result of drinking too much alcohol (10%). Fewer pupils reported having had any serious injuries which required the attention of a doctor or having been in hospital, either at an Accident and Emergency department or admitted overnight **(Tables 4.17 and 4.18)**.

4.10 Family attitudes to drinking

All pupils who drank alcohol were asked how their family felt about them drinking alcohol. Fifteen percent (15%) of those pupils who drank alcohol in the past week reported that their family did not know that they drank, 64% reported that their families did not mind them drinking, 10% reported that their families did not like them drinking and 11% reported that they did not know what their families thought **(Table 4.19 and 4.20)**.

Pupils who had never had an alcoholic drink (16% of all pupils) were asked how their families would feel if they started drinking. Fifty seven percent (57%) reported that their families would be upset or angry if they started drinking **(Tables 4.21 and 4.22).**

All pupils, including those who had never had a proper alcoholic drink, were asked if they were allowed to drink at home and the majority of pupils (94%) agreed that they would be allowed to do so **(Table 4.23)**.

4.11 Lessons on alcohol

Pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last 12 months on alcohol. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions. Most pupils reported having lessons, videos or class discussions; 85% of 13 year olds and 78% of 15 year olds. However, 11% of 13 year olds and 16% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons, videos or class discussions and 5% of 13 year olds and 6% of 15 year olds did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on alcohol **(Table 4.24)**.

Table 4.1: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	77	93	84	78
No	23	7	16	22
Base	*348*	*349*	*697*	*22850*

Base= All pupils

Table 4.2: Whether pupils have had an alcoholic drink by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Yes	84	85	84	78
No	16	15	16	22
Base	*345*	*352*	*697*	*22850*

Base= All pupils

Table 4.3: Last occasion of drinking, by age group Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	27	48	37	35
One to four weeks ago	18	23	21	16
One to six months ago	20	15	18	18
More than six months ago	11	7	9	10
Never	23	7	16	22
Base	*346*	*349*	*695*	*22617*

Base=All pupils

Table 4.4: Last occasion of drinking, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
During the last week	37	37	37	35
One to four weeks ago	22	20	21	16
One to six months ago	16	19	18	18
More than six months ago	9	9	9	10
Never	16	15	16	22
Base	*354*	*350*	*695*	*22617*

Base=All pupils

Table 4.5: Usual drinking frequency, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	19	38	28	27
About once a fortnight	13	19	16	12
About once a month	14	17	16	12
Only a few times a year	31	18	25	27
Never	23	7	16	22
Base	*347*	*349*	*696*	*22754*

Base=All pupils

Table 4.6: Usual drinking frequency, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Once a week or more	29	27	28	27
About once a fortnight	17	15	16	12
About once a month	14	18	16	12
Only a few times a year	25	25	25	27
Never	16	15	16	22
Base	*345*	*351*	*696*	*22754*

Base=All pupils

Table 4.7: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Alcopops	45	56	52
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	28	48	41
Beer, lager or cider	39	40	40
Wine	21	28	25
Shandy	15	7	10
Martini, sherry etc.	14	8	10
Base	*95*	*166*	*261*

Base=All pupils who drank one measure or more in past week
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.8: Type of drinks consumed in last seven days by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Alcopops	41	63	52
Spirits, liqueurs etc.	31	50	41
Beer, lager or cider	58	22	40
Wine	20	31	25
Shandy	13	8	10
Martini, sherry etc.	9	11	10
Base	*129*	*132*	*261*

Base=All pupils who drank one measure or more in last week
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.9: Sources of alcohol, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Never buy alcohol	63	40	51
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	16	29	23
Buy alcohol from someone else	11	16	14
Buy alcohol in pub	2	14	8
Buy alcohol from shop	3	13	8
Buy alcohol in club	1	11	7
Buy alcohol in off licence	1	12	7
Buy alcohol from supermarket	1	5	3
Base	*271*	*330*	*601*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.10: Sources of alcohol, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Never buy alcohol	48	54	51
Buy alcohol from friend/relative	19	28	23
Buy alcohol from someone else	13	14	14
Buy alcohol in pub	9	7	8
Buy alcohol from shop	10	7	8
Buy alcohol in club	5	8	7
Buy alcohol in off licence	7	6	7
Buy alcohol from supermarket	4	2	3
Base	*299*	*302*	*601*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.11: Venue for drinking alcohol, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	49	34	41
Usually drink at a party with friends	24	46	36
Usually drink in someone else's home	27	40	34
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	18	22	20
Usually drink in club/disco	8	20	14
Usually drink in pub	3	13	8
Usually drink somewhere else	7	8	7
Base	*271*	*330*	*601*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.12: Venue for drinking alcohol, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Usually drink in own home	40	41	41
Usually drink at a party with friends	30	41	36
Usually drink in someone else's home	28	40	34
Usually drink outdoors (street, park etc)	20	20	20
Usually drink in club/disco	13	15	14
Usually drink in pub	10	6	8
Usually drink somewhere else	8	7	7
Base	*299*	*302*	*601*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.13: Ever been drunk, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Never	45	29	36	32
Once	23	15	19	19
2-3 times	17	23	20	22
4-10 times	11	19	15	13
More than 10 times	4	15	10	14
Base	*266*	*324*	*590*	*17723*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.14: Ever been drunk, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Never	37	35	36	32
Once	20	18	19	19
2-3 times	20	19	20	22
4-10 times	14	16	15	13
More than 10 times	9	11	10	14
Base	*291*	*299*	*590*	*17723*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.15: Consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in last 30 days, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	6	11	9	13
3 times	5	11	8	9
Twice	8	16	12	13
Once	13	16	15	14
Not in last 30 days	28	27	28	23
Never	38	19	28	28
Base	*260*	*324*	*584*	*17615*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.16: Consumed five or more drinks on the same occasion in last 30 days, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
4 or more times	10	8	9	13
3 times	6	10	8	9
Twice	10	15	12	13
Once	16	13	15	14
Not in last 30 days	29	26	28	23
Never	29	27	28	28
Base	*285*	*299*	*584*	*17615*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

Table 4.17: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Vomited	27	45	36
Had an argument or fight	13	28	21
Tried any drugs	2	17	13
Stayed off school	9	10	10
Had unprotected sex*	-	6	6
Injured and seen by doctor	4	4	4
Visited A & E department	2	2	2
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	3	2
Base	*283*	*300*	*584*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

* 15 year old pupils only

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.18: Effects of drinking too much alcohol, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Vomited	32	41	36
Had an argument or fight	20	23	21
Tried any drugs	8	14	13
Stayed off school	8	11	10
Injured and seen by doctor	4	4	6
Had unprotected sex*	2	9	6
Visited A & E department	2	2	4
Admitted to hospital overnight	2	3	2
Base	*280*	*297*	*584*

Base=All pupils who have ever drunk alcohol

* 15 year old pupils only

note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 4.19: Perception of family attitudes to pupil's drinking (pupils who drank alcohol), by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	10	9	10	16
They don't mind	56	69	64	45
They don't know I drink	24	9	15	27
I don't know what they think	10	12	11	12
Base	*91*	*160*	*251*	*7469*

Base=All pupils who drank alcohol in previous week

Table 4.20: Perception of family attitudes to pupil's drinking (pupils who drank alcohol), by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They don't like it	10	9	10	16
They don't mind	66	63	64	45
They don't know I drink	14	16	15	27
I don't know what they think	10	12	11	12
Base	*123*	*128*	*251*	*7469*

Base=All pupils who drank alcohol in previous week

Table 4.21: Perceptions of family attitude to pupil's drinking (pupils who have never tried alcohol), by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	64	32	57	70
They would not mind	10	28	14	9
I don't know what they would think	26	40	29	21
Base	*78*	*25*	*103*	*4711*

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

Table 4.22: Perceptions of family attitude to drinking (pupils who have never tried alcohol), by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
They would be upset or angry	62	51	57	70
They would not mind	15	14	14	9
I don't know what they would think	23	35	29	21
Base	*52*	*51*	*103*	*4711*

Base=All pupils who have never drunk alcohol

Table 4.23: Whether pupils are allowed to drink alcohol at home: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Yes, always	9
Yes, sometimes	85
No, never	15
Base	*686*

Base=All pupils

Table 4.24: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on drinking, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	85	78	81
No	11	16	13
Don't know	5	6	5
Base	*311*	*326*	*637*

Base= All pupils

5 Drug Use

All pupils were asked whether they had ever been offered each drug on a list of drugs. Alternative street names were provided for each drug and a dummy drug 'Semeron'[1] was also included on the list.

All pupils were then asked whether they had ever used any of the drugs on the list, even if only once: 24% of all 13 and 15 year old pupils reported that they had taken drugs at some time **(Tables 5.1 and 5.2)**.

The list of drugs was repeated in the next question and all pupils were asked when they had last used or taken each of the drugs listed: 'in the last month', 'in the last year', 'more than a year ago', or 'never'.

5.1 Drug use in the month prior to the survey

Prevalence of drug use in the month prior to the survey increased significantly with age. Eight percent (8%) of thirteen year old pupils reported using drugs in the last month compared with 20% of fifteen year olds. Prevalence of drug use in the Borders area was not significantly different from the prevalence found nationally (national figures: 8% of 13 year olds and 23% of 15 year olds). Girls were as likely to have used drugs in the last month as boys (13% of boys and 15% of girls had used drugs in the last month, the difference was not statistically significant). This was different from the national pattern of slightly lower drug use among girls **(Tables 5.1 and 5.2).**

5.2 Drug use in the year prior to the survey

Twenty two (22%) percent of all pupils in the survey reported that they had used drugs in the year prior to the survey (this figure includes those who used drugs in the last month) **(Tables 5.1 and 5.2)**.

The most frequently used drug in the last year, including the last month, was cannabis, 19% of pupils had used cannabis in the last year. The figures were much lower for other types of drugs; 6% had used stimulants (cocaine, crack, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers), 4% had used solvents, 2% percent had used psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms) and 1% had used opiates (heroin or methadone) **(Tables 5.3 and 5.4).**

5.3 Whether offered drugs

Around half of all pupils (45%) had been offered drugs. This proportion was higher for older pupils than for younger pupils: 58% of 15 year old pupils and 33% of 13 year old pupils reported that they had been offered drugs. The proportion of pupils offered drugs was not significantly different from that reported nationally for younger pupils, but was slightly lower than that reported nationally for fifteen year olds (national figures: 65% of 15 year olds and 34% of 13 year olds reported being offered drugs). There was no difference in the proportion of girls and boys who reported being

[1] 'Semeron' was included to give some idea as to whether children were over-reporting their use of drugs. One percent (1%) of pupils reported Semeron among the drugs they had used and 1% included it among the drugs they had been offered.

offered drugs. The most commonly offered drug type was cannabis: 37% of pupils reported that they had been offered this drug **(Tables 5.5 to 5.8)**.

5.4 Frequency of drug use

Three percent (3%) of all pupils reported that they usually take drugs once a week or more, 2% of thirteen year old pupils and 4% of fifteen year old pupils. Two percent (2%) of girls and 4% of boys reported taking drugs once a week or more **(Tables 5.9 and 5.10)**.

5.5 Money spent on drugs

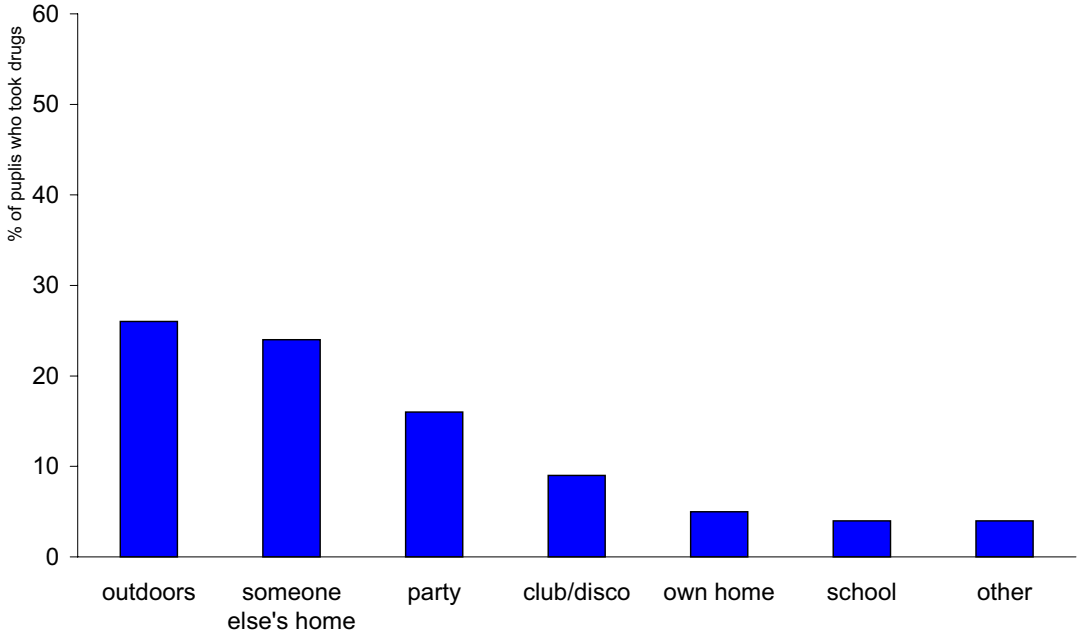
Just under half (43%) of pupils who used drugs in the last month reported that they spent money on drugs. The average amount spent by those who reported buying drugs was £8.00 per week.

5.6 Where young people are when they use drugs

Pupils who had used drugs were asked where they were the last time they used drugs. Some pupils reported more than one location. Very few pupils reported using drugs in their own home. The most frequently reported location for drug taking for all 13 and 15 year old pupils was 'outdoors' (26%). The next most reported location was 'someone else's home' (24%) **(Tables 5.11 and 5.12, Figure 5.1)**.

Thirty nine percent (39%) of those who have used drugs reported that they were drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs **(Table 5.13)**.

Figure 5.1: Location of drug use: Borders 2002.



(Source: Tables 5.11 and 5.12)

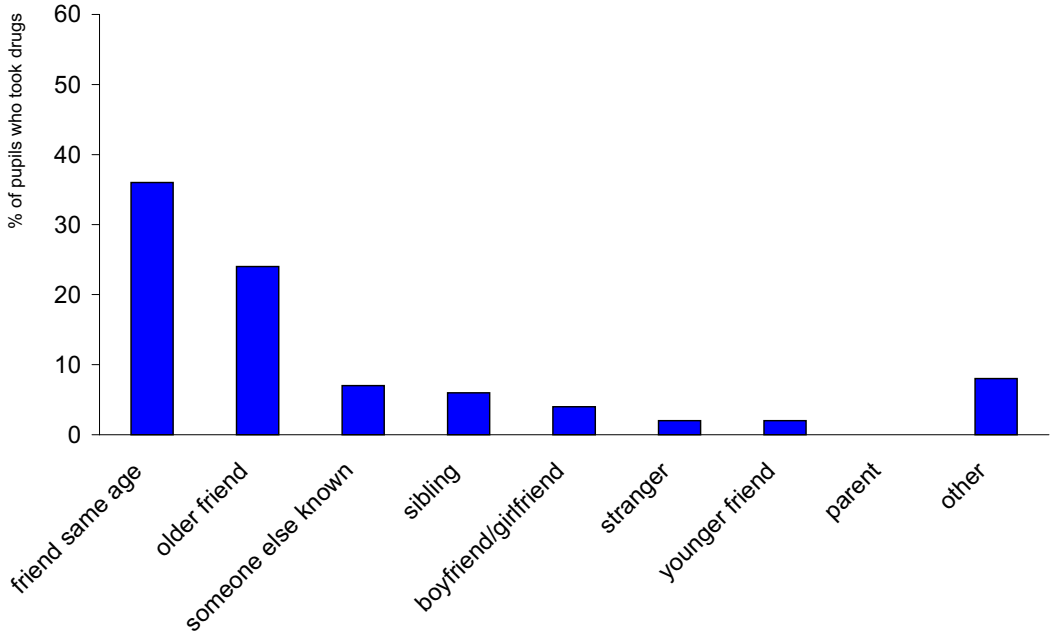
5.7 Availability of drugs

Just under half of all 13 and 15 year old pupils (45%) reported that it would be 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to get drugs while 38% did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more fifteen year olds reported that they would find it 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' (55%) than thirteen year old pupils (35%) **(Tables 5.14 and 5.15)**.

5.8 Source of drugs used

Pupils who had used drugs were asked where they had obtained drugs from on the last occasion they had used them. Some pupils reported more than one source. As can be seen from Figure 5.2, friends were the most commonly reported source of drugs; 36% of pupils reported that they obtained their drugs from a friend of the same age and a further 24% reported that they obtained drugs from an older friend **(Tables 5.16 and 5.17, Figure 5.2).**

Figure 5.2: Source of drugs: Borders 2002.



(Source: Table 5.16 and 5.17)

More than half (61%) of pupils who took drugs reported that they gave some drugs away last time they used drugs. Fewer pupils (6%) reported that they sold some of their drugs **(Tables 5.18 and 5.19)**.

5.9 Obtaining information and help

Fifteen percent (15%) of the 13 and 15 year old pupils who reported taking drugs more than a few times a year said they would like to stop taking drugs now. Almost all young people who took drugs more than a few times a year reported that they have never felt that they needed help because of taking drugs (94%), although 74% reported that they knew where to go to get help **(Tables 5.20 to 5.23)**.

All pupils were asked if they knew where to get information on drugs. Seventy four percent (74%) reported that they knew where to get information **(Table 5.24)**. The most frequently reported sources of information were 'doctor' (42%), 'drop-in centre' (37%) and 'friends' (35%) **(Table 5.25)**.

5.10 Pupils' attitudes to drugs

All pupils were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about drugs and those who used or sold them. Most pupils (78%) agreed that they 'know enough about the dangers of drugs' and almost all (88%) agreed that 'taking drugs harms your health'.

The majority of pupils also agreed with the other statements about the dangers of drugs: 'taking cocaine is dangerous' (76%), 'heroin is addictive' (66%) and 'injecting drugs can lead to HIV' (69%), although 32% did not know whether heroin is addictive and 28% did not know whether injecting drugs can lead to HIV. Half of pupils (50%) agreed that 'heroin is more dangerous than cannabis' and 45% reported that they did not know whether this was the case. More than half (56%) of the pupils agreed that 'what adults tell us about drugs is true'.

Although around two thirds of pupils (65%) agreed that 'most young people will try out drugs', half of the pupils (53%) felt that 'people who take drugs are stupid'. Pupils were more likely to agree than disagree with the statement 'people my age who take drugs need help'; 61% of pupils agreed with this statement. Under half (42%) of pupils agreed that 'people who take heroin are junkies'.

Three of the statements concerned possible reasons for drug taking: 'people take drugs to escape from reality', 'people take drugs to relax' and 'taking drugs is exciting'. Very few pupils (15%) agreed that 'taking drugs is exciting'. Around half agreed with the statements 'people take drugs to escape from reality' (46%) and 'people take drugs to relax' (55%), but with regard to these last two statements around a third of pupils reported that they 'don't know' whether this was the case (39% and 32% respectively).

Just over half of all pupils (54%) agreed that 'all people who sell drugs should be punished' but only 27% believe that 'all people who take drugs should be punished' **(Table 5.26)**.

5.11 Lessons on drugs

All pupils were asked if they had had any lessons, videos or discussions in class in the last twelve months on drugs or on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Pupil response depends on recall and may not accurately reflect the provision of lessons, videos or class discussions.

Most pupils reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs: 83% of 13 year olds and 79% of 15 year olds. However, 12% of 13 year olds and 15% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and 5% of 13 year olds and 6% of 15 year olds reported that did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on drugs **(Table 5.27)**.

Fewer pupils reported having lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing. Forty three percent (43%) of 13 year olds and 33% of 15 year olds reported that they had had lessons, videos or discussions in the last twelve months. However,

43% of 13 year olds and 52% of 15 year olds reported that they had not had lessons and the remaining 14% of 13 year olds and 16% of 15 year olds reported that they did not know whether they had had lessons, videos or discussions on solvent abuse/glue sniffing **(Table 5.28)**.

Of those who reported having lessons, videos or discussions on drug use, 21% reported that they found them 'very useful' and 49% found them 'fairly useful' **(Table 5.29)**.

Table 5.1: Taken drugs in last month, last year* or ever, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	8	20	14	15
Used drugs in last year*	12	32	22	22
Used drugs ever	14	34	24	25
Base	*330*	*345*	*675*	*22434*

Base=All pupils
note: columns in the table do not add up to 100 as each category includes the previous one

Table 5.2: Taken drugs in last month, last year* or ever, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Used drugs in last month	13	15	14	15
Used drugs in last year*	19	25	22	22
Used drugs ever	21	26	24	25
Base	*337*	*338*	*675*	*22434*

Base=All pupils
note: columns in the table do not add up to 100 as each category includes the previous one

Table 5.3: Type of drug used in the last year*, by age: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	11	29	19	20
Stimulants	3	9	6	6
cocaine	1	1	1	1
crack	1	1	1	1
ecstasy	1	2	2	3
amphetamines	1	1	1	2
poppers	1	7	4	3
Psychedelics	1	3	2	2
LSD	-	1	1	1
magic mushrooms	1	2	2	2
Opiates	1	2	1	1
heroin	0	1	1	1
methadone	0	1	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	2	6	4	4
Tranquillisers	-	1	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	0	1	0	0
Semeron	0	1	1	0
Other	0	1	1	0
Base	*352*	*355*	*707*	*23090*

Base=All pupils
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

* includes past month

The National Totals shown in these tables have been weighted to allow more precise comparisons to be made with local figures, there may, therefore, be a slight variation between these National Totals and the figures published in the National Interim Report

Table 5.4: Type of drug used in the last year*, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	18	21	19	20
Stimulants	5	6	6	6
cocaine	1	1	1	1
crack	1	1	1	1
ecstasy	1	2	2	3
amphetamines	1	1	1	2
poppers	4	4	4	3
Psychedelics	2	2	2	2
LSD	1	1	1	1
magic mushrooms	1	2	2	2
Opiates	2	1	1	1
heroin	1	1	1	1
methadone	1	0	0	0
Gas, glue or other solvents	3	5	4	4
Tranquillisers	1	1	1	2
Anabolic Steroids	1	-	0	0
Semeron	1	0	1	0
Other	1	0	1	0
Base	*353*	*354*	*707*	23090

Base=All pupils
* includes last month
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.5: Whether pupils offered drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	33	58	45
No	67	42	55
Base	*299*	*311*	*610*

Base= All pupils

Table 5.6: Whether pupils offered drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Yes	43	47	45
No	57	53	55
Base	*307*	*303*	*610*

Base= All pupils

Table 5.7: Type of drug offered, by age: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	26	49	37	42
Stimulants	12	25	19	19
cocaine	7	6	6	6
crack	3	3	3	4
ecstasy	3	9	6	12
amphetamines	4	6	5	7
poppers	4	18	11	9
Psychedelics	5	11	8	10
LSD	1	5	3	5
magic mushrooms	5	8	6	8
Opiates	3	6	5	5
heroin	3	6	5	4
methadone	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	9	15	12	12
Tranquillisers	2	4	3	6
Anabolic Steroids	1	2	1	2
Semeron	1	1	1	1
Other	2	1	1	1
Base	*329*	*342*	*671*	*20614*

Base=All pupils
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.8: Type of drug offered, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Cannabis	35	40	37	42
Stimulants	19	19	19	19
cocaine	6	7	6	6
crack	4	2	3	4
ecstacy	6	6	6	12
amphetamines	4	6	5	7
poppers	10	11	11	9
Psychadelics	6	9	8	10
LSD	3	3	3	5
magic mushrooms	5	7	6	8
Opiates	4	5	5	5
heroin	4	5	5	4
methadone	1	1	1	2
Gas, glue or other solvents	11	13	12	12
Tranquillisers	3	3	3	6
Anabolic Steroids	2	1	1	2
Semeron	1	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1	1
Base	*333*	*338*	*671*	*20614*

Base=All pupils
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.9: Usual frequency of taking drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	2	4	3	5
Once or twice a month	1	8	5	4
A few times a year	2	8	5	5
Do not use drugs	95	79	87	86
Base	*329*	*346*	*675*	*22532*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.10: Usual frequency of taking drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
At least once a week	4	2	3	5
Once or twice a month	2	7	5	4
A few times a year	5	5	5	5
Do not use drugs	88	86	87	86
Base	*336*	*339*	*675*	*22532*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.11: Places where drugs were used, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	25	26	26
Someone else's home	14	30	24
At party	10	20	16
At club/disco	7	11	9
Own home	4	6	5
At school	3	5	4
Other place	4	5	4
Base	*71*	*129*	*200*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.12: Places where drugs were used, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Outdoors (street, park etc.)	30	23	26
Someone else's home	18	30	24
At party	15	18	16
At club/disco	7	12	9
Own home	7	5	5
At school	2	6	4
Other place	4	5	4
Base	*93*	*107*	*200*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.13: Whether pupils were drinking alcohol last time they used drugs: Borders 2002.

	Total %	National Total %
Yes	39	39
No	61	61
Base	*168*	*5544*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.14: Ease of getting drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Very easy	13	19	16
Fairly easy	22	36	29
Fairly difficult	6	10	8
Very difficult	4	3	3
Impossible	9	2	6
Don't know	46	30	38
Base	*327*	*345*	*672*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.15: Ease of getting drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Very easy	19	13	16
Fairly easy	27	30	29
Fairly difficult	9	7	8
Very difficult	2	4	3
Impossible	6	5	6
Don't know	36	41	38
Base	*334*	*338*	*672*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.16: Source of drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Friend of own age	23	43	36
Older friend	15	29	24
Someone known	7	7	7
Brother or sister	6	6	6
Boyfriend/girlfriend	1	6	4
Younger friend	1	2	2
Stranger	3	1	2
Mother/father	-	1	0
Other	8	8	8
Base	*71*	*129*	*200*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.17: Source of drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Friend of own age	34	37	36
Older friend	15	32	24
Someone known	10	5	7
Brother or sister	5	7	6
Boyfriend/girlfriend	2	6	4
Younger friend	2	2	2
Stranger	3	-	2
Mother/father	1	-	0
Other	10	7	8
Base	*93*	*107*	*200*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.18: Sharing drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Use it all myself	27	35	33
Sold some of it	9	4	6
Gave some of it away	64	60	61
Base	*45*	*113*	*158*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.19: Sharing drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %
Use it all myself	33	33	33
Sold some of it	9	3	6
Gave some of it away	58	64	61
Base	*69*	*89*	*158*

Base=All pupils who have ever taken drugs

Table 5.20: Whether would like to stop taking drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	18	14	15	15
Would like to give up in the future	6	18	15	20
Would not like to give up	24	38	35	39
Not sure	53	30	35	26
Base	*17*	*73*	*90*	*2899*

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.21: Whether would like to stop taking drugs, by gender: Borders 2002.

	Boys %	Girls %	Total %	National Total %
Would like to give up now	20	10	15	15
Would like to give up in the future	12	18	15	20
Would not like to give up	38	34	35	39
Not sure	30	38	35	26
Base	*40*	*50*	*90*	*2899*

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.22: Whether pupils felt they needed help because of using drugs: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Yes	6
No	94
Base	*90*

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.23: Whether pupils know where to get help for of their drug use : Borders 2002.

	Total %
Yes	74
No	26
Base	*88*

Base=All pupils who took drugs a few times or more in the last year

Table 5.24: Whether pupils know where to get information on drugs: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Yes	74
No	10
Don't know	16
Base	*675*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.25: Where pupils would go for information on drugs: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Doctor	42
Drop-in centre	37
Friends	35
Internet/web	30
Teacher	26
Telephone helpline	26
Female family member	20
Advice organisation	17
Magazines	15
Male family member	15
Books	13
Councillor	9
Youth worker	8
TV/radio	6
Base	*499*

Base=All pupils who know where to get drugs information
note: columns may add up to more than 100 as more than one answer could be given

Table 5.26: Pupils' attitudes to drugs: Borders 2002.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	*Base*
Taking drugs harms your health	88	6	6	*666*
Taking cocaine is dangerous	76	4	21	*661*
I know enough about the dangers of drugs	78	14	9	*663*
Heroin is addictive	66	2	32	*662*
Injecting drugs can lead to HIV	69	3	28	*659*
People my age who take drugs need help	61	21	19	*660*
Most young people will try out drugs	65	18	17	*669*
People who sell drugs should be punished	54	25	21	*660*
People who take drugs are stupid	53	30	17	*662*
What adults tell us about drugs is true	56	17	27	*661*
Heroin is more dangerous than cannabis	50	5	45	*659*
People take drugs to relax	55	12	32	*659*
People take drugs to escape from reality	46	16	39	*659*
People who take heroin are junkies	42	24	34	*660*
People who take drugs should be punished	27	52	21	*661*
Taking drugs is exciting	15	48	38	*671*

Base=All pupils

Table 5.27: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on drugs, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	83	79	81
No	12	15	13
Don't know	5	6	6
Base	*312*	*326*	*638*

Base= All pupils

Table 5.28: Proportion of pupils who reported having lessons, videos or discussions in class on solvent abuse, by age group: Borders 2002.

	Age 13 %	Age 15 %	Total %
Yes	43	33	38
No	43	52	47
Don't know	14	16	15
Base	*307*	*324*	*631*

Base= All pupils

Table 5.29: Whether pupils found lessons, videos or discussions on drugs useful: Borders 2002.

	Total %
Very useful	21
Fairly useful	49
Not very useful	17
Not useful at all	5
Don’t know	8
Base	*543*

Base= All pupils who reported having had lessons, videos or discussions

6 Survey Design

6.1 Sample design

All local samples were post-stratified to account for non-response bias in school type (independent or state funded) and school year (S2 or S4). In the Borders area, there were no independent schools sampled as the pupil numbers were too small (less than 0.5% of the total population). There was no difference in response rates in S2 pupils compared with S4 pupils and the final sample comprises 50% S2 pupils and 50% S4 pupils.

6.2 Precision of estimates

The local and national sample size was agreed by the National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group to provide robust data at local level. The proposed sample size within each local area was chosen to produce reliable estimates to monitor changes in prevalence over time, and enable comparisons between local and national estimates.

The degree of precision desired for the local samples was agreed by the National School Survey Substance Misuse Working Group as follows: when comparing a local sample of approximately 1000 with the national sample, a difference in prevalence of 5% in the local area, above or below the national figure, should be detected as statistically significant 80% of the time. With this sample size, changes in prevalence over time in a local area of 7% should also be detected as statistically significant 80% of the time. Comparing a local sub-group with a national sub-group (e.g. boys), the local prevalence would have to be 8% higher or lower than the national figure to be 80% certain of detecting this difference as statistically significant. Comparing sub-groups within local areas requires a large difference in prevalence (approx. 10%) if they are to be detected as statistically significant.

6.3 Statistical significance

Although the above acts as a guide to the magnitude of changes in prevalence which can in principal be detected, it should not be assumed that estimates differ unless clearly stated as significantly different in the text. The ability to detect differences in prevalence is also affected by the achieved sample size and the number of pupils who answer each question. The tables provided are split by age group and by gender. The sample numbers in any sub-group should be taken into account, and extreme caution exercised when using figures from small sub-groups for comparison purposes. Standard errors used to determine significance take account of the complex sample design [1] [2].

[1] Kish (1970) *Survey Sampling,* London: John Wiley

[2] SAS System for Windows 1999. Release 8, SAS Institute Inc. Cary, NC, USA